

Dear Congress and FCC Chairman and Commissioners,

The primary thrust of this message is to make a plea that you vote against deregulation of the media. These regulations are in place to protect the freedom of the press and prevent monopolized control of information. AT THE VERY LEAST you should postpone the vote allowing more time for the public to evaluate the proposal and weigh in with their preferences.

The public, America's freedom, our way of life, our ability to positively affect our future, depend heavily on having full, nonbiased information. The failure of the networks to provide this information because of big business interests, and their contributions, is as damaging to America's security as is the threat from terrorism. To further erode the affectivity of the press through deregulation of the media would be as damaging to America as is the threat from terrorism. The FCC being indebted to the very industry it regulates is only one example of this in government.

The media bias is of particular concern to me and, many people I know. The recent threat to the free press through FCC deregulation, we believe, is evidence of special interest influence, and a joint effort between big business and the government to control the media.

There is not enough reporting on the humanitarian situation in Iraq, especially from an Iraqi perspective. We have heard nothing about the fact that New York's 9/11 heroes are facing fire house closings and pink slips; Oregon parents are holding plasma drives to raise money for their public schools, etc., etc. The Bush tax cuts will dry up needed federal revenues for many vital programs, not least of which are VA benefits, Medicaid, and homeland security. These issues are not discussed sufficiently, and in some cases they are not discussed at all by the media. We would also ask that the Fairness Doctrine be reinstated, which required that media make every reasonable attempt to cover contrasting points of view, and that stations perform public service in reporting on crucial issues in their communities.

I, and many others, attribute the president's high popularity ratings in the polls to the lack of good investigative journalism concerning his and his political party's activities. To fail to report more comprehensively on the no bid-contracts given to companies for rebuilding Iraq, where a conflict of interest exists between government officials and the gaining companies is a disservice.

Many, many citizens have become disenfranchised by government corruption, and therefore, apathetic about their ability to have any affect on their situation and the state of the nation. The low turnout at the polls is just one example. If the media were providing the service they were meant to provide, it could motivate the population to action, and return the country to the people.

The media, our government, and big business, have done this

country a grave disservice and all for the love of money and for an undeserving and disproportionately large piece of the pie.

God Bless Senator Robert C. Byrd for his eloquent, insightful speeches and God Bless all the other critical thinkers in the Congress.

Do not deregulate the media. Preserve the protection which is in place to assure our continued freedom.